

Gritty love in marriage 1

Passion Translation: Ephesians 5: 31 - 33, "... since the two have become joined as one flesh. Marriage is the beautiful design of the Almighty, a great and sacred mystery—meant to be a vivid example of Christ and his church. So every married man should be gracious to his wife just as he is gracious to himself. And every wife should be tenderly devoted to her husband."

MSG "And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh." This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honour her husband."

This is a great picture of marriage found in these scriptures. No one needs fear this kind of biblical instructions concerning marriage. This is the God design for marriage – it is a picture of the way Christ loved the church and gave himself for her. It is beautiful, esteemed, honourable, and splendid – it is gorgeous!

But every marriage will face difficulty. There is no shame in admitting this – we live in an evil world.

Ephesians 5: 15 – 16 says, "So be very careful how you live, not being like those with no understanding, but live honourably with true wisdom, *for we are living in evil times.*"

The evil in the world needs no definition – we all see it and its impact on society. During these evil times we need to live in God's wisdom, have God insights and understanding. We hope this small amount of wisdom we share with you today will help!

Gritty love in Marriage

Ephesians 5:15 – 17, "So be very careful how you live, not being like those with no understanding, but live honourably with true wisdom, for we are living in evil times. Take full advantage of every day as you spend your life for his purposes. And don't live foolishly for then you will have discernment to fully understand God's will."

1. Be careful how you live – live with an understanding heart
2. Live honourably with true wisdom
3. We are living in evil times
4. Take full advantage of every day
5. Spend your life for His purpose
6. Don't live foolishly
7. But live with discernment regarding the will of God

1. Having to pull together in difficult times

When communications are not good

When your spouse is not focused on the priorities of the marriage

In sickness, in worse and in poorer

Ephesians 5: 21 – 24, "And out of your reverence for Christ be supportive of each other in love. For wives, this means being supportive to your husbands like you are tenderly devoted to our Lord, for the husband provides leadership for the wife, just as Christ provides leadership for his church, as the

Saviour and Reviver of the body. In the same way the church is devoted to Christ, let the wives be devoted to their husbands in everything.”

1. Because you claim to revere Christ – be supportive of each other
 2. For wives – this means being supportive of your husband in the same way you are tenderly devoted to Jesus
 3. Husbands provide leadership for marriage and the family – in the same way Christ provides leadership for the church
-
2. **When your desire to protect turns into the need to confront**
 - Bad behaviour
 - Bad attitudes
 - Bad cooking